

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

There is provided a new structural composite comprising a web of Z-directionally oriented fibers. The web must contain a large percentage of superabsorbent fibers and the balance of the fibers may be synthetic or natural fibers. Binder fibers are present and should be present in an amount of between 10 and 45 weight percent, more particularly about 30 weight percent. Polyethylene/ polypropylene side-by-side or sheath/core bicomponent fibers are particularly well suited for this purpose. Natural fibers or synthetic fibers that are hydrophilic may also be added to the web in order to control the wettability of the web. Pulp, cotton, and Rayon are suitable for this purpose and may be present in an amount between 0 and 40 weight percent, more particularly about 20 to 30 percent. These materials are suitable for use in personal care products like diapers, training pants, incontinence products, bandages, and sanitary napkins.